

TIPP CITY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

TIPP CITY, MIAMI COUNTY, OHIO JANUARY 14, 2008

Roll Call

City Service Director Scott Vagedes called this meeting of the Tipp City Parks Advisory Board to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members in attendance included: Maynard Watkins, David Mihalyo, Doug Slagel, and Patrick Hodges.

Also in attendance were Mayor Tim Evans, Park Superintendent Jim Asher, Monroe Township Trustee Dr. Martin English, Tipp Monroe Community Services representative Kathy Taylor, and acting Secretary Marilyn Fennell. Guest signing the register, Kevin Barkow, Keith Kingrey, Matt Clevenger of the *Independent Voice and Dayton Daily News* reporter Nancy Bowman. Mr. Vagedes advised the Board that at the next meeting, they need to elect a chairman and vice-chairman. The Board members, community representatives, and staff introduced themselves to each other and all in attendance.

Oath of Office

Mayor Evans swore in recently appointed Maynard Watkins and newly appointed David Mihalyo, Douglas Slagel, and Patrick Hodges.

Excuse Board Member's Absence

Mr. Mihalyo **moved to excuse Mrs. Hale's** absence. Mr. Watkins seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Minutes

November 12, 2007
Meeting

The minutes of the November 12, 2007 meeting were tabled until next month when Mrs. Hale would be present.

Citizens' Comments Not on the Agenda

Mark Hoke, with Select Soccer, 408 W. Broadway asked about the plan to assess teams that do not have 90% Tipp City residents on their teams. Mr. Vagedes said the existing policy and the proposed new policy were on the agenda and asked if this discussion could be held until that time. Mr. Hoke was acceptable to that.

New Business

Bike Trail – Canal Lock
Park to Kyle Park

Mr. Vagedes stated City Council awarded the contract on January 7, 2008 to Finrock Construction for the construction of the next phase of the bike trail. This will be from Canal Lock Park to Kyle Park. 92% of the cost of this trail is being paid for by ODOT grant money. It will cost the City taxpayers around \$12,500. Construction should begin late winter, early spring. Mr. Kingrey asked about a possible access road from 571 that was discussed a few years ago. Mr. Vagedes said the land that was purchased (6.25 acres) from George Timmer was located on the west side of the entire property. The land is in alignment with the

Old Business

Kyle Park Dog Park

lift station for Kyle Park. The idea from the 2002 Parks Master Plan was for an access road from Kyle Park to State Route 571. At this time there is not sufficient land for a road to Kyle Park. Mr. Vagedes continued that Finrock Construction is ODOT pre-certified and has built a number of bike trails in Sidney, Troy, and the Miami Conservancy District.

Mr. Asher said Quality Landscape and Fencing has completed the Dog Park fencing. The rules sign and the donators' sign should be ready at the end of this week. Once they are installed the City wishes to have a public notice and photos in the newspapers. It has been getting some use already. Mr. Vagedes said it is located east of the new baseball quad fields and past Pin High Golf. Mr. Hoke asked if those who let their dogs run loose will be directed to the dog park. Mr. Vagedes said the current rule is that dogs must be leashed but within the dog park, they can run free within the fenced area. Mr. Hoke said he was concerned about those that have been letting their dogs run wild in the open areas. Mr. Asher said they are working on directional signs for that. Mr. Vagedes said dogs are not supposed to be running loose on the soccer fields, as well as no one is permitted to hit golf balls on the soccer fields for safety reasons.

Kyle Park Restrooms

Mr. Vagedes said the restrooms are under construction by Jess Construction of Arcanum, Ohio. The exterior is nearly completed. The interior electric, plumbing, and fixtures remain to be installed. The facility is scheduled to open and be available for use by Tipp City Junior Baseball this spring. Mr. Mihalyo asked if there are two sets of restrooms, one for each quad. Mr. Vagedes said it is one building between the two quads. It is also the future location of Junior Baseball's concession stand. Mr. Asher said there will also be drinking fountains installed this spring at the quads.

Field Use Policy

Mr. Vagedes wanted the Board to be aware that there is a current field use policy in place and copies were included the members' packets. He referred to Administrative Policies 302 (Facilities Use Policy) and 304 (Facilities Reservation Policy). These policies give first priority to Tipp Monroe Community Services (TMCS). These policies were put in place in 1995 and reviewed in 1999. Those policies were discussed. The Strawberry Festival ran their soccer tournament in 2007 in Kyle Park and fees were paid to the City in accordance with the existing policies.

Mr. Vagedes said there is a new policy being proposed which has been worked on for about one year. This policy will replace Administrative Policy 304. Mr. Vagedes asked Ms. Taylor to explain the proposed policy. The Board will need to review this policy and make a recommendation to City Council for it to be approved before it can be put into action.

Ms. Taylor presented the background on the involvement of Community Services and the use of fields owned by the City. She stated she has been at Community Services for 30 years and baseball and football fields have been scheduled through TMCS. The soccer field use was added in the 80s. The City's purpose is to provide recreational fields for TMCS programs and all open recreational programs, which includes Jr. Baseball, SAY Soccer, and Pee Wee Football. TMCS has a contract with the City and the Township that requires education, recreational, and cultural programs for the citizens of Tipp City and Monroe Township. There are no charges for the fields for TMCS programs. The majority of the participants are Tipp City residents, youth and adults. Scheduling of programs is done with community programs in mind and special events such as Band Show, Cross Country meets, and Mum Festival. If the teams from the leagues wish more practice time, available times are given to the leagues and a time limit is set.

Ms. Taylor continued that in the 70-80s, the teams using the fields were adults, such as the Jaycee League, church leagues, etc. Select teams did not exist then. In the 90s, select teams started to effect the use of the fields. For example, this past year, 6 adult teams from Troy wanted to use the fields for practice. They were not permitted to practice on Troy's fields but wanted to play on Kyle Park Fields. There have been other examples, such as an adult soccer team from Dayton, in addition to others. She said more and more non-residents ask to use our fields. She said they started to check with Troy, Beavercreek, and Vandalia on their field use policies. The proposed policy is basically Troy and Vandalia's combined that has been tweaked for Tipp City's needs. It has been through 10-12 drafts. Two Park Board members, Mr. Asher, representatives from Youth Soccer, Select Soccer, baseball, Select Baseball, and Ms. Taylor sat on the review committee.

Mr. Vagedes said outside teams may overtax the fields and increase mowing, maintenance, etc. The City wants the fields for the use by Tipp City/Monroe Twp. residents first and foremost. Mr. Asher said there were people just showing up and not paying fees for some events. Classes were being taught for profit, unbeknownst to TMCS or the City. Pick-up games are okay if there is no one scheduled to use a field. Mr. Vagedes explained Administrative Policies 302 & 304 are for the current facilities use and facilities reservations. Ms. Taylor said they had hoped to have the proposed policy in place by January 1, 2008. That has not happened but they hope to have it in place for Jr. Baseball this spring.

Ms. Taylor reviewed the new policy. She explained the

definition of a resident and a non-resident, the different categories of organization classifications, the facility availability and fees, scheduling requirements, schedules to be submitted to TMCS, and fees for the different categories. Category C-F includes a non-TCMS affiliated team (youth or adult) must have a minimum of 80% Tipp City and/or Monroe Township participants or non-resident tax payers in Tipp City on the roster. Verification of residency is required for all participants and coaches. The minimum residency ruling will be waived when the team consists of High School age students. All participants on roster must be at least 4 years old. If it is a youth team, one coach must be certified by NAYS, SAY Tech, USSF, Challenger or equivalent. A formal background check must be completed and submitted for each coach and assistant coach. Ms. Taylor said that can be done at a cost of \$8 per person thru EBI, Employment Background Investigation. Mr. Barkow stated he thought \$8/coach was a hardship. Ms. Taylor said that was small amount to pay to have a background check performed and it protected TMCS as well as SAY Soccer and Jr. Baseball. She said she only needs a letter from the group stating they have done this. Ms. Taylor said Mr. Cowell of Jr. Baseball said they would be doing that this year. Those should be done annually as things can change.

Certification of Insurance is required. The Application for Use must be completed and submitted to TMCS office. Lightning Safety was also included in the policy.

Mr. Vagedes pointed out that the fields are owned by Tipp City and that the residents plus the tax-paying non-residents are paying for these fields and their maintenance thru the 0.25% Park Levy. The Aquatic Center and the baseball fields were built with Park Levy funds. That is the reason the TFAC charges one rate for a resident, a slightly higher one for a working-within-the-city non-resident, and a higher fee for a non-resident. Mr. Asher said this new proposed policy is what surrounding communities are currently using. Mr. Asher does not wish to see Select teams eliminate recreational team players. Ms. Taylor said she has seen problems with the girls' basketball teams. Mr. Hodges asked about going from 90% to 80% in the new policy. Ms. Taylor said that was done after speaking with the girls' soccer coaches and Mr. Cowell and it was felt 90% was too high. She added that Vandalia and Troy have a 90% residency rule. Mr. Hoke asked if there could be special consideration be given for different situations when a team cannot be completed. Mr. Vagedes said if the Board wished to recommend or add that to the policy, they could. Ms. Taylor said it would need to be added to this new policy.

After more discussion on the matter, Mr. Hodges **moved to allow exceptions to the residency requirement at the**

discretion of the Director of Tipp-Monroe Community Services. Mr. Watkins seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Ms. Taylor continued with the review of the proposed policy. Lightning Safety has been added and the Field Use Request Procedures and Checklist were reviewed. Mr. Hodges complimented the committee saying he thought the policy was well thought thru. Mr. Vagedes said the last policy was dated 1999 and needed updated. Mr. Kingrey asked a question about the fee schedule. In answer to his question, Ms. Taylor said if tournaments and such are played under Jr. Baseball then there would be no additional fees. An outside group such as Troy Strawberry Festival would pay the per field, per day fees.

Mr. Vagedes asked that the Board give a final review of the policy so that it can be voted upon at the next meeting. Ms. Taylor reminded them that it will be too late to put it in place for Jr. Baseball's 2008 season.

The next item under the field use, was regarding a girl's softball tournament that was held in October 2007. It was held unbeknownst to Tipp Monroe Community Services or the City. The fees for field use have not been paid and the person, Rob England, running the tournament was aware of the situation. He is proposing to run another tournament over Memorial Day 2008. Mr. Asher said he owes \$200 and that did not include lights if they were used. Porta-johns were delivered and no proof of insurance was supplied. Mr. Kingrey said the Mr. England is going to be paying the fees. The Board agreed that the outstanding fees need to be paid.

Other Business

Mr. Vagedes requested the Board members each select 2 neighborhood parks to oversee. The prior Board members had held neighborhood meetings to determine what the folks who lived near each park preferred in each of the parks. He suggested reviewing the map that was included in their packets and each board member pick 2 neighborhood parks at the next meeting. The idea was for the members to talk with the neighborhood residents to see what the needs are; more flowers, trees, playground equipment, etc.

Mr. Vagedes then reviewed the improvements scheduled in the 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan. Some of those projects included asphalt resurfacing in Kyle Park, swing sets in City Park, bikeways, painting the bottoms of the pools and replacing pumps at the TFAC as necessary.

Mr. Asher said the American In Bloom judges suggested that a plaque be put on the outside of the City Park Roundhouse to

give its history. Mr. Asher said he was pricing a bronze plaque.

It was noted that Veteran's Memorial Park needs to be added to the Parks list. It is currently listed as the Hyatt & Main Park.

Breck Cowell of Jr. Baseball asked the Board's opinion on the use of vinyl advertising sponsor banners being used at Kyle Park on the ball field fencing rather than the old wood boards as was done in City Park. Mr. Vagedes said he thought the use of vinyl would be better than using wood. Mr. Asher thought it would be easier on the fencing. Mr. Vagedes said he would check with Mr. Spring regarding the sign code.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Mihalyo, seconded by Mr. Slagel and unanimously approved.

APPROVED: _____
Board Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Marilyn Fennell, Acting Board Secretary